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COL. SEC. OFFICE,
Victoria, 22nd March 1860.

The following Report upon the Country of the Cowichan Valley containing matter of interest to the Public, is herewith published for general information.

By Command of His Excellency,

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG.

Acting Colonial Secretary.

GENERAL REPORT ON THE COWICHAN VALLEY.

To Joseph Despard Pemberton Esq., Colonial Surveyor, &c.

SIR,—I beg leave to submit for your information the following remarks on the capabilities of the Cowichan Valley.

The Valley may be fairly considered as about 15 miles wide upon the sea coast but narrows rapidly as we ascend the river, insomuch, that upon the Westerly limit of the survey (11 miles from the Coast) it has a width of only 6 miles. The surface throughout is either uniformly level, or lies in gentle swells, and, until the Mountain sides are attained, scarcely any rocks or boulders are found, the rocky knolls and ledges so frequently occurring in the southerly parts of the Island almost entirely disappear. It is well watered by the Cowitchan river and its numerous tributaries. High ranges of mountains, believed to be of secondary formation, with Calcarious Freestone, or Carbonate of Lime, form almost impassible barriers towards the North and South, and the whole subsidence of land between these mountains is evidently a deposit brought down by the waters. The distinctive nature of the soils throughout the Cowichan Valley is Calcarious, seemingly formed by the decomposition of Limestone rock, for while the other principles occur in different degrees, the properties of Carbonate of Lime almost invariably predominate There is usually a depth of two or three feet, resting upon a sufficiently retentive subsoil of blue clay or gravel. The Earths, chiefly light, very porous, and composed of due proportions of clay, sand, carbonate of lime, and vegetable remains, are well constituted for absorbing and retaining moisture, and the general color from brown to black, with the entire absence of chalky or white earths, would likewise indicate a favorable soil for receiving and retaining heat. Samples taken from the Somenos Plains were found by experiment to absorb water sufficient to increase the column of soil from one-eighth to one-fifth of its whole bulk. The low grounds are good, and would easily be brought into a state fit for cultivation. The only exceptions are those lying immediately at the foot of Mount Prevost and the Quamachan mountains, where the soil resting upon massive rock, has been converted into a spongy web Pabulum, and good for nothing. Much of the River bottom is a clay loam of a brown color, and an excellent soil for wheat, beans, turnips, and red clover. The Alluvial deposit of the Valley is, however, far from being all of a clayey nature, in many parts, chiefly on the southerly side, the mould rests upon a gravelly, and even a sandy deposit. This is likewise a rich soil. as may be seen from the abundant crops of potatoes (among the most exhausting plants) raised by the In-

dians upon the same patches of land for a series of years. The Plain lands have soils either gravelly, or sandy and gravelly loams, eligible for barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, beans, peas, and the root and leaf crops, potatoes, turnips, and carrots, with the other usual garden vegetables. The humidity of the atmosphere may prove a barrier to the culture of Indian corn. I am unable to say, but I believe that this grain will one day form a staple, as it will assuredly form a profitable commodity, both of consumption and export. Wheat may likewise be successfully raised upon most of the soils in their natural state, and by proper tillage, npon all. And I am firmly persuaded that under a common, judicious system of farming, as good returns can be obtained from these lands as in any part of the Continent of America. The climate, it may be noted, is one especially adapted to the pursuits of agriculture, not being subject to the heats and droughts of California, or to the colds of the other British American Provinces, and the Eastern United States. The loamy soils everywhere possessing a depth of two or three feet, and containing a large proportion of the calcarious principle are especially eligible for fruit culture, and the Oak plains around the Somenas and Quamichan Lakes, with with a sandy clay subsoil are exceedingly well adapted for fruit or garden purposes. Among the native fruits the blackberry, mulberry, raspberry, strawberry, gooseberry, currant, and high bush cranberry would require little pains or culture to produce luxuriantly. The strawberry grows on the plain land nearly as large as the garden fruit. The varieties of plants are very numerous, a few only were noted growing on the plains and meadow lands, among which are the following:—Wild pea, wild beans, ground nut, clover, field strawberry, wild oat, cut grass, wild timothy, reed meadow grass, long spear grass, sweet grass, high ostrich fern, cowslip, crowfoot, winter cress, partridge berry, wild sunflower, marigold, wild lettuce, nettles, wild angelica, wild lilly, broad leaved rush, and reed rush. The fern attains the great height of six or eight feet, and the grasses have all a vigorous growth. The chief economical woods are pine and oak, neither of which attain, however, to the great size observable in the other parts of the Island. The following are some of the trees and shrubs: Oak, Red or swamp maple, alder, trailing arbutus, bois de flèche, crab apple, hazel nut, red alder, willow, balsam poplar, pitch pine, and various other species, balsam fir, cedar, barberry, wild red cherry, wild blackberry, yellow plum, choke cherry, black and red raspberry, prickly purple raspberry, swamp rose, bearberry, red elder, mooseberry, snowberry, blueberry, billberry, whortleberry, cranberry, red and white mulberry. It is believed that the country surveyed will prove rich in the economic minerals, sufficiently so to justify the Government in causing an investigation to be made at the proper time. Malleable lime and freestone for building purposes are abundant, with marble. Iron both bog and mountain ores. Indications of gold were remarked by the party upon the southerly slope of Mount Prevost, but no value was attached to these. Water privileges for the purpose of mills and machinery are not frequent along the coast, although the region abounds with large rivers and small streams. Several good falls exist a short distance above the mouth of Mill creek, in in the Shawnigan District, and this creek has like facilities for mills at various other points to its junction with the Cowitchan river. Other streams afford a sufficient extent of water privileges to answer the requirments of a large population, but these are all inland at a distance of several miles from the coast. The salmon is abundant, both upon the coast and in the river, and with the herring fisheries, will undoubtedly prove a lucrative branch of employment to a part of the future population. The Cod fish and numerous other kinds are also caught in quantities by the Indians. In traversing the country several descriptions of game were met with, among which were the elk, deer, grouse. and wild pigeons, duck, and wild geese. From my observations and from the supplies constantly brought in by the Indianns, it was at on ceinferred that the country was plentifully stocked with most kinds of game. The Cowichan Harbor is somewhat exposed to the S. E. winds, which, however, are of rare occurrence. The small Bay running up in the 6th range of the Cowichan District forms a good Harbor and anchorage. The access to the Cowichan valley by water is at all times easy, the distance from Victoria being about 35 miles, by land the communication will be more difficult. Passing by the head of the Saanich Inlet and along its west bank the distance would probably be 40 miles, and it is believed no natural obstacles would be found to render the undertaking a very expensive one. The whole area surveyed is 57,658 acres, of which, 45,000 acres of plain and prairie land may be set down as superior agricultural lands, the remaining portion being woodland, either open or thick, and which will likewise be ultimately occupied.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most Obt, Servt,
OLIVER WELLS.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

TENDERS will be received up to 12 o'clock noon of the 20th April 1860, at the office of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, New Westminster, for the formation of a Waggon Road (with short additional portion of road, sixty-seven (67) chains in length at the camp end) from the camp, New Westminster, to Burrard Inlet—total length of road six (6) miles—width to be twelve (12) feet, with sidings at intervals, surface not metalled, but finished hard.

The whole is through a cutting of twenty (20) feet already opened through the forest, but the road may deviate within a width of sixty-six (66) feet from the extreme left side of the present cutting, and also sixty-six (66) feet from the extreme right side of the opening of the short portion above referred to.

For particulars as to construction any persons desirous of tendering are referred to the specification, which may be seen at the above named office between the hours of 10 and 12 A. M.

Payment will be made as follows:—One-fifth of the whole to be in New Westminster Town Lots that may remain unsold after the 5th April, or that shall be laid out afterwards with all reasonable expedition, in addition to those now laid out—Such lot to be valued at the upset price of Twenty (£20) pounds per lot—One-fifth in Suburban Lots around New Westminster—and the remaininig three-fifths in rural land which may be selected from any surveyed or unsurveyed lands, not reserved by Government.

The lowest, or any Tender, not necessarily accepted.

R. C. MOODY, Col. R. E.
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

New Westminster, 20th March, 1860.

£50 REWARD.

WHEREAS, on or about the 26th day of October, 1859, two white men, names unknown, were murdered on Fraser River, between New Westminster and the sea: And whereas a TRUE BILL for having committed said murder was found by the Grand Jury, at the last Assizes held at New Westminster, against an Indian named TAITACH, otherwise "JOHN CHINAMAN," of the Mosqueam Tribe: And whereas, the said Taitach has not yet been made amenable: Now, I do, therefore, by order of His Excellency, the Governor of British Columbia, hereby offer a REWARD of FIFTY POUNDS sterling to any person or persons who shall, within six months from the date hereof, arrest and deliver up to justice the said TAITACH, or any other of the parties concerned in the aforesaid murder.

C. BREW,
Chief Inspector of Police, British Columbia.

New Westminster, B. C, 29th February, 1860.
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SUPREME COURT OF CIVIL JUSTICE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ORDER OF COURT.

THE SPRING Assizes will be held at the following places on the following days, (viz:)

At Fort Yale, on Monday, the 19th inst.
At Fort Hope, on Friday, the 23rd inst.
At Douglas, on Thursday, the 29th inst.
At New Westminster, on Tuesday, the 3rd April,

At 11 o'clock in the forenoon, at each place, or on such days immediately following the above mentioned days, as the nature of the communications will permit.

Assizes will be held at Cayoosh and Lytton, in the month of May, of which further notice will be given; but any matters at Cayoosh, now desired to be brought before the Court, will be taken at Douglas, and any such matters at Lytton, will be now taken at Fort Yale.

MATT. B. BEGBIE, J.

Victoria, V. I., 3rd March, 1860.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE Government of British Columbia will give a premium of one hundred and fifty dollars to the person who will first place a steamer for the carriage of Passengers and freight on Seaton Lake; a like amount to the first person placing a like steamer on Lilloet Lake; and a like amount to the person first placing a like steamer on Anderson Lake.

By order of His Excellency, the Governor.

WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

IMPORTANT TO PURCHASERS OF TOWN LOTS IN THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER, ON 1ST JUNE, 1859.

NOTICE is hereby given to those persons who may not have paid in full for Town Lots purchased by them in the above named City, that the balance due from them on said lots will be received by the Treasurer up to the 31st March inclusive, after which all lots for which the purchase money has not been paid in full, will be forfeited.

R. C. MOODY,
Col. R. E., and Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, B. C.

Victoria, V. I., 18th Feb., 1860.

TENDERS.

TENDERS are required for the funds necessary for the construction of the road from Port Douglas along the Harrison-Lilloet trail to Cayoosh.

The Amounts advanced will be secured upon the tolls levied upon the road, and will be repaid from time to time out of the moneys received in respect of the tolls.

Further particulars may be obtained upon application to the Treasurer of British Columbia.

By order of His Excellency the Governor.

W. DRISCOLL GOSSET.
Treasurer.

Feb. 20th, 1860.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

ANY PERSON or persons holding titles for town lots at Langley, may transfer the same in part payment for any lot or lots they have heretofore purchased or which they may purchase at New Westminster, at the forthcoming sale of Town Lots by Auction, on the 5th of April next.

R. C. MOODY, Col. R. E.,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, B. C.

Victoria, V. I., 18th February, 1850.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Office of Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, 13th February, 1860.

CERTAIN of the Reserved Lots on Columbia Street, and other parts of the city of New Westminster, will be sold by Public Auction, at New Westminster, on Thursday, the 5th April next.

R. C. MOODY, COL. R. E.
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works

ORDER OF COURT, VANCOUVER ISLAND.

IN the Supreme Court of Civil Justice, Monday, the 19th day of March, A. D. 1860.

It is ordered that the motion days in each week hereafter shall be Tuesdays for Common Law proceedings, and Thursdays for Chancery proceedings, of which notice is hereby given.

By order.

THOMAS G. WILLIAMS,
Registrar.

The Judges' Chambers are open for business every morning at 10 A. M. except on Saturday.

Printed every Tuesday, by GEORGE E. NIAS, at the office, Langley street, off Yates street, Victoria, in the Colony of Vancouver Island.